

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended, and claims 11-14 have been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-14 are pending, with claims 7-10 temporarily withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tagawa (US 5,315,891). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a rotatable twist-grip operating member, a rotatable transmission control member, and an intermediate member that includes an intermediate member detent for maintaining a rotational position of the *operating member* and the transmission control member. Tagawa discloses a rotatable twist-grip operating member (11), a speed change operation mechanism (12), and a transmission mechanism (13) disposed between operating member (11) and speed change operation mechanism (12) to transmit the operational rotation of operating member (11) to speed change operation mechanism (12). A cable reel (23) including a cylindrical reel portion (31) is rotatably mounted around a shaft member (22) and is connected via the transmission mechanism (13) with the operating member (11) when operating member (11) is rotated as described at column 8, lines 1-34.

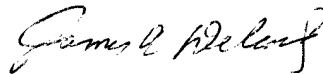
Cable reel (23) includes a retainer mechanism housing portion (35). While the components at retainer mechanism housing portion (35) maintain cable reel (23) in each of the gear positions, they do not maintain *operating member* (11) in any position as recited in claim 1. In fact, operating member (11) always returns to a neutral position as a result of spring (62). More specifically, after operating member (11) rotates to change gears and thereafter rotates back toward the neutral position, cable reel (23) decouples from operating member (11) as described at column 8, lines 35-43. It is spring (62), spring stopper pin (64) on partition plate (65), and spring stopper (63) on coupling member (54) that maintain the rotational position of operating member (11), not the components associated with cable reel (23), which was interpreted by the office action to be an "intermediate member." Thus, Tagawa neither discloses nor suggests an intermediate member that includes an intermediate member detent for maintaining a rotational position of the *operating member* and the transmission control member.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hanatani (US 2002/0128112). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the transmission control member directly pulls and releases a transmission control element. The office action refers to Hanatani's planet gear (46) as a transmission control member. However, planet gear (46) does not directly pull and release a transmission control element. Thus, Hanatani neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed subject matter.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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